

**General Assembly**

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Committee on Information
Twenty-seventh session
18-28 April 2005

**Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee
to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session**

Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

“(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

“(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

“(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly;”

and requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. In its resolution 35/201, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Committee, approved its report and the recommendations of its Ad Hoc Working Group,¹ reaffirmed the mandate given to the Committee in its resolution 34/182 and decided to increase the membership of the Committee from 66 to 67. At its organizational session in 1980, the Committee agreed that the principle of geographical rotation would be applied to all the officers of the Committee and that they should be elected for two-year terms of office.

3. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to fifty-eighth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its fifty-ninth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee² and adopted consensus resolutions 59/126 A and B.

4. Over the years, the membership of the Committee has grown. At its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to increase the membership of the Committee from 102 to 107 and appointed Cape Verde, Iceland, Luxembourg, Madagascar and Qatar as members of the Committee.

5. The Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Belgium
Angola	Belize
Argentina	Benin
Armenia	Brazil
Azerbaijan	Bulgaria
Bangladesh	Burkina Faso
Belarus	Burundi

Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's
Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic
of the Congo
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta

Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Qatar
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United Republic of
Tanzania
United States of
America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

6. The organizational meeting of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Information was held on 18 April 2005 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh).

B. Election of officers

7. In accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, the Committee held elections for a new Bureau for a two-year term. Upon his nomination by the representative of the Group of Eastern European States, Mihnea Ioan Motoc (Romania) was elected Chairman by acclamation. Upon their nomination by the representatives of the African Group of States, the Western European Group of States and the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States respectively, Souad Elaloui (Morocco), Sebastião Filipe Coelho Ferreira (Portugal) and Marcelo Suárez Salvia (Argentina) were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation. Upon his nomination by the representative of the Group of Asian States, Muhammad A. Muhith (Bangladesh) was elected Rapporteur, also by acclamation. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2005-2006 are thus as follows:

Chairman:

Mihnea Ioan Motoc, Chairman (Romania)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Souad Elaloui, Vice-Chairperson (Morocco)

Sebastião Filipe Coelho Ferreira, Vice-Chairman (Portugal)

Marcelo Suárez Salvia, Vice-Chairman (Argentina)

Rapporteur:

Muhammad A. Muhith (Bangladesh)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

8. At its organizational meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2005/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Chairman.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate and consideration of substantive questions.

8. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
9. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.
9. The Committee held the substantive meetings of its twenty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 28 April 2005.
10. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the continuing reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications (A/AC.198/2005/2);
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the further rationalization of the network of United Nations information centres (A/AC.198/2005/3);
 - (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the modernization and integrated management of United Nations libraries: new strategic directions (A/AC.198/2005/4);
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Communications Group in 2004 (A/AC.198/2005/5);
 - (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations website (A/AC.198/2005/6);
 - (f) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the operation and management of United Nations libraries (A/59/373).

D. Observers

11. The following Member States took part in the session as observers: Austria, Bahamas, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sweden, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda. The Holy See and Palestine also participated as observers.
12. Representatives of the following specialized agencies also participated as observers: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/35/21), annex, sect. V.*

² *Ibid., Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/59/21).*